

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS STATE 103109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, UR

SUBJECT: MICROWAVES

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
APRIL 28:

Q. FRED, THIS IS SIMPLY FOR THE RECORD. BUT IN RESPONSE
TO ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE RAISED HERE IN THE LAST
FEW DAYS ABOUT THE RADIATION PROBLEM IN MOSCOW, YOU
RECOMMENDED YESTERDAY THAT ENLIGHTENMENT WOULD BE FOUND
IN THE FEBRUARY 27 BRIEFING BY MR. FUNSETH. THAT BRIEF-
ING DID NOT CONTAIN MANY ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS THAT
HAVE BEEN RAISED HERE, AND THOSE QUESTIONS STILL STAND
UNANSWERED DESPITE THE 27TH BRIEFING, EVEN TO THE POINT
OF THE BASIC ISSUE AS TO THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A RADIA-
TION PROBLEM.

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A. LET ME SAY FIRST THAT I BELIEVE I POSTED FOUR OR FIVE

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED YESTERDAY.

Q. I SAW THOSE.

A. YOU HAVE SEEN THOSE? WHICH I THINK DID PROVIDE--

Q. THAT TOOK CARE OF SOME OF THEM.

A. --EITHER UPDATED OR GAVE NEW INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE GENERAL QUESTION OF THE SITUATION IN MOSCOW. I SIMPLY AM NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER YOU ANY MORE ENLIGHTENMENT ON THE SUBJECT AT THIS TIME FOR THE REASONS THAT I STATED YESTERDAY AND WHICH HAVE BEEN STATED PREVIOUSLY BY BOB FUNSETH.

Q. WELL, THE ONLY REASON I AM SAYING THIS IS NOT REALLY TO DEBATE IT BUT SO THAT THE RECORD READS THAT YOUR ADVICE TO US TO FIND ENLIGHTENMENT IN THE FEBRUARY 27 BRIEFING REALLY ENDS UP AS BEING A DISAPPOINTING EXPERIENCE, AND THE DEPARTMENT IS STILL, THEREFORE, ON RECORD AS NOT PROVIDING ANSWERS TO A SERIES OF BASIC QUESTIONS THAT DO AFFECT AMERICAN CITIZENS WORKING IN THE SOVIET UNION.

A. I AM SORRY THAT THAT READING OF THE FEBRUARY 27 BRIEFING WAS NOT HELPFUL. I OFFERED THAT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE RATHER ELABORATE AND DETAILED DISCUSSION YOU HAVE HAD PREVIOUSLY ON THE SUBJECT WITH BOB FUNSETH -- AND THAT WAS JUST ONE, I THINK, OF THE EXCHANGES -- TO POINT OUT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED ALL THE ISSUES YOU RAISED YESTERDAY REALLY IN SOME DETAIL PREVIOUSLY AND THAT BOB, EITHER IN THAT BRIEFING OR AFTER OR BEFORE, GAVE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE WERE IN A POSITION TO GIVE, AND THAT I COULD REALLY DO LITTLE TO ADD TO IT EXCEPT THE INFORMATION WHICH I GAVE YOU IN THE QUESTIONS TAKEN AND WHICH I MAY HAVE PROVIDED YESTERDAY.

I SIMPLY AM NOT ABLE TO GO BEYOND THE EXPLANATION I HAVE GIVEN YOU THUS FAR WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

Q. AGAIN JUST FOR THE RECORD, THERE IS REALLY NO EXPLANATION
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THAT YOU OR FUNSETH HAS OFFERED. WHAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US IS A SERIES OF BUREAUCRATIC EVASIONS AS TO WHY YOU CANNOT GIVE US AN ANSWER. YOU HAVE ONLY GIVEN US THE STATEMENT THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF AMERICANS WORKING THERE. AND THAT IS, OF COURSE, UNDERSTANDABLE.

A. AND THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO RESOLVE

THE PROBLEM IN MOSCOW, AND THAT TO GO FURTHER INTO
DETAIL WOULD BE TO POSSIBLY UPSET THE COURSE OF THESE
DELIBERATIONS AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT HELP ANYBODY
INVOLVED.

Q. FRED, I TOO READ THE 27TH THING, AND I DIDN'T GO
BACK OVER THE OTHERS. BUT IS THERE ANYWHERE IN ANY OF
THESE BRIEFINGS THAT YOU APPARENTLY ARE CONVERSANT WITH
WHERE YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS A RADIATION PROBLEM
AT THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW? YOU TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEM
HERE TODAY. YOU DON'T CHARACTERIZE WHAT KIND OF A PROB-
LEM IT IS. ARE WE TALKING ABOUT A RADIATION PROBLEM
THAT RESULTS FROM THE SOVIET'S USE OF MICROWAVE EQUIPMENT
FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE?

A. KEN, I MUST DECLINE TO --

Q. WELL, LET'S STOP AND NOT EVEN TALK ABOUT THE MICRO-
WAVE. IS THERE A RADIATION PROBLEM EXISTING AT THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW?

A. I AM REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO DESCRIBE THE NATURE
OF THE PROBLEM.

Q. FRED -- OH WELL, THERE'S NO POINT. THANK YOU.

2. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT PREVIOUS
PRESS BRIEFINGS AND PROVIDED TO PRESS APRIL 28.

Q. WHERE AND WITH WHOM ARE THE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE
SITUATION AT THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW GOING ON?

A. AS THE SECRETARY SAID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OF
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FEBRUARY 12, "THIS ISSUE IS A MATTER OF GREAT DELICACY
WHICH HAS MANY RAMIFICATIONS. OUR OVERWHELMING CONCERN
IS, OF COURSE, THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF STATE DEPARTMENT
AND OTHER PERSONNEL IN MOSCOW. WE HAVE MADE UNILATERAL
EFFORTS TO REDUCE ANY DANGERS, AND WE ARE ALSO ENGAGED
IN DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE IT
WOULD SERVE THESE PURPOSES IF I WENT INTO ANY GREATER
DETAIL."

WE ARE NOT AS YET ABLE TO GO INTO ANY GREATER DETAIL.

Q. DID AMBASSADOR STOESSEL HAVE ANEMIA BEFORE THE SITUA-
TION AT THE MOSCOW EMBASSY AROSE?

A. AS WAS STATED IN THE BRIEFING, IT WOULD NOT BE

APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS THE PERSONAL HEALTH OF ANY OF OUR EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR STOESSEL.

Q. IS ANYONE AT THE MOSCOW EMBASSY SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF RADIATION?

A. AS WAS NOTED IN THE ANSWER TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON THE HEALTH OF ITS EMPLOYEES. WE CAN SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF ALL EMPLOYEES IN MOSCOW.

Q. HAS DR. ZWEIFEL DISCUSSED THE SITUATION AT THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SINCE HIS RETURN?

A. YES.

Q. HOW MANY TRANSFERS FROM MOSCOW HAVE BEEN REQUESTED AS OFFERED BY THE AMBASSADOR LAST DECEMBER?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REQUESTS FOR TRANSFERS SPECIFICALLY CITING THE CURRENT SITUATION AT THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN ONE REQUEST FOR A TRANSFER BE-

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FORE THE NORMAL DUTY PERIOD WAS CONCLUDED. NO PARTICULAR REASONS WERE CITED FOR THAT REQUEST.

SINCE ALL THE EMBASSY STAFF ASSIGNMENTS IN MOSCOW ARE VOLUNTARY, THAT REQUEST WAS PROCESSED WITHOUT INQUIRING AS TO WHY THE TRANSFER WAS DESIRED.

3. FOLLOWING IS SEGMENT OF TRANSCRIPT OF PRESIDENT -
FORD'S APRIL 26 INTERVIEW WITH KMOL-TV IN SAN ANTONIO
TEXAS.

MR. LIVELY: MR. PRESIDENT, THERE WAS AN ARTICLE IN THIS MORNING'S PAPER I READ AND ALSO ON THE AIR LAST NIGHT ABOUT THE RUSSIANS BOMBARDING THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCO. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE SITUATION?

THE PRESIDENT: I HAVE BEEN AWARE OF IT FROM ITS INCEPTION. IT IS BEING HANDLED, AND I THINK VERY PROPERLY, AT THE TOP LEVELS. I THINK BECAUSE OF ITS SENSITIVITY THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER WE BELIEVE IS BEING RESOLVED. SISCO

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